Government have not finalised the new telecom policy so far.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Modernisation of Communication Network in North-Eastern Region

26. **SHRI** PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal/ scheme to ultramodernise communications network in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details/salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The details/salient features are as per statement. *(See* below)

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

North East Region including Assam is having all electronic exchanges of latest type in the smaller and medium capacity. In case of large capacity exchange new technology switches are in the process of installation and commissioning in various State Capitals, in addition to having all the exchanges of electronic type.

The details of proposal/scheme launched by the Government for modernisation of the Telecommunication services in North-Eastern Region during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002) are given below:

(i) To provide telephone on demand by the year 2000.

(ii) To provide telephone facility in all the villages by 2002.

(iii) To provide STD facility to all the Exchanges.

(iv) To computerise trunk services in all the SSA Headquarters.

(v) Use of Optical Fibre technologies extensively in the network.

(vi) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.

(vii) To have reliable media for all exchanges by 2000.

(viii) Computerised billing and accounting in all the divisions.

(ix) To modernise fault repair service.

(x) To computerise Directory enquiry services in all the SSAs.

(xi) To give priority for telecom facility in Senstive Border areas

Tribal and Hilly areas and

Industrial Growth centrers.

The following alternate technologies will be utilised for provided VPTs:—

(i) CDOT-TDMA-PMP

(ii) WLL

(iii) Satellite based VPTs

New services

INTERNET nodes are working at Guwahati and Silchar. It is planned to introduce Internet at District Headquarter level by March 2000.

Teleconferencing and ISDN Facilities

(i) Procurement of Video Conferencing Equipments for multimedia centres at Guwahati and Aizwal from M/s. ITI Calcutta has been taken up.

(ii) New technology switches (which support Video Conferencing and ISDN) are available at Guwahati and Aizwal, New technology switches have been allotted to Shillong, Imphal, Kohima and Agartala.

(iii) ISDN facility from C-DOT exchange is under trial by Telecommunication Engineering Centre, New Delhi.